

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1, 8, 10-11, 15 and 16 as set forth below is the entire set of pending claims. Underlines indicate insertions; ~~strikeouts~~ or double brackets [[]] indicate deletions.

1 1. (Currently amended) A consumable order-assistance system
2 for computer peripheral devices, comprising:

3 a personal computer having a messaging system;

4 at least one computer peripheral device having a messaging system
5 communicating with the messaging system of the personal computer;

6 a communication [[link]] link, signal coupling the personal computer
7 with a seller of a consumable for the computer peripheral device; and

8 a user interaction site configured to receive a notification from the
9 computer peripheral device via the messaging system of the personal computer
10 of a need to order a consumable;

11 wherein the user interaction site is provided within one of: a single-
12 connection environment as an end user interface; an unmanaged network
13 environment as a workgroup administrator interface; and a server-based
14 centralized network environment as a centralized system administrator interface.

1 2. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the personal computer and the computer peripheral device are
3 connected with a bus, and wherein the user interaction site comprises a printer
4 driver of the personal computer provided within a single-connection
5 environment.

1 3. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the personal computer and the computer peripheral device are
3 provided within an unmanaged network environment, the user interaction site
4 comprises an embedded web server of the computer peripheral device, and the
5 embedded web server generates and forwards a message to a user at the
6 personal computer to prompt ordering of a consumable.

1 4. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the personal computer and the computer peripheral device are
3 provided within a network environment having a central server, the user
4 interaction site comprises a network administrator personal computer
5 communicating with the server, and a network management application provided
6 on the server generates and forwards a message to a network administrator.

1 5. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the user interaction site comprises a centralized administrator
3 interface comprising a centralized purchaser, and wherein a centralized order-
4 assistance tool of a network server delivers a notification to the centralized
5 purchaser of a need to order a consumable.

1 6. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the user interaction site comprises a user interface of the personal
3 computer.

1 7. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the user interaction site comprises a user interface for facilitating user
3 access to the computer peripheral device to receive notification of a need to
4 order a consumable for the computer peripheral device.

1 8. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented self-adjusting
2 consumable order-assistance system which implements a program in which
3 consumable components of computer peripheral devices are replenished, the
4 system comprising:
5 a personal computer having a messaging system;
6 at least one computer peripheral device having a messaging system
7 communicating with the messaging system of the personal computer;
8 a communication [[link]] link, signal coupling the personal computer
9 with a reseller of a consumable; and

10 a user interface comprising an end user interaction interface, a
11 workgroup administrator interface, or a centralized system administrator
12 interface, the end user interaction interface including the personal computer
13 configurable for interaction by a user that is exchanging information with a
14 computer peripheral device associated with the personal computer, the
15 workgroup administrator interface operative to manage one computer peripheral
16 device at a time, and the centralized system administrator interface
17 communicating with a server of a centralized network environment.

1 9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the end user
2 interaction system comprises a printer driver of the personal computer.

1 10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the
2 workgroup administrator interface ~~comprises~~ cooperates with an embedded web
3 server of the computer peripheral device.

1 11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the
2 centralized system administrator interface ~~comprises~~ cooperates with a network
3 management application usable by a network administrator.

1 12. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the end user
2 interaction system is provided within a single-connection environment
3 comprising the personal computer communicating with the computer peripheral
4 device via a bus, and wherein a single user has dedicated access to the personal
5 computer.

1 13. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the workgroup
2 administrative interface comprises an embedded web server within the computer
3 peripheral device, and wherein the embedded web server comprises an interface
4 for the order-assistance system.

1 14. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the centralized
2 system administrator interface comprises a centralized order-assistance tool, and

3 wherein the centralized order-assistance tool is provided within a centralized
4 network environment having a server.

1 15. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8 wherein the
2 computer peripheral device comprises an embedded web server, and wherein the
3 personal computer and the computer peripheral device are provided within an
4 unmanaged network environment, and the embedded web server initiates
5 ordering of a consumable in response to a detected need to replenish the
6 consumable.

1 16. (Currently amended) A method of providing order
2 assistance, comprising:

3 providing a computer peripheral device, a personal computer having
4 a communication link with a reseller of a consumable, a messaging system
5 extending between the computer peripheral device and the personal computer,
6 and a user interaction site;

7 determining an environment in which the computer peripheral
8 device and the personal computer are provided by detecting the presence of a
9 parallel cable or the presence of a network environment;

10 for the case where the presence of a network environment is
11 detected and after determining an environment, further broadcasting a discovery
12 protocol to detect the presence of a centralized order-assistance solution; and

13 based on the determined environment and after further
14 broadcasting a discovery protocol, providing the user interaction site in the form
15 of: a user interface when the network environment comprises a single-
16 connection environment; an embedded web server when the network
17 environment comprises an unmanaged network environment; and a centralized
18 system administrator interface when the network environment comprises a
19 server-based, centralized network environment.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein, when the
2 presence of a parallel cable is detected, the network environment is determined
3 to be a single-connection environment, the computer peripheral device interacts
4 at an end user level.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the network
2 environment comprises a single-connection environment, the user interface site
3 comprises an interface to a consumable order assistance computer program
4 resident on the personal computer, and the program provides an order location
5 to a user for purchasing a consumable.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the computer
2 peripheral device comprises an embedded web server, the network environment
3 comprises an unmanaged network environment, and the embedded web server
4 initiates ordering of a consumable in response to a detected need to replenish
5 the consumable.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the personal
2 computer comprises a maintainer computer, the network environment comprises
3 a managed, centralized network environment having a server, and the server
4 sends a notification to the maintainer computer of a need to order a consumable.